

KATE A. THOMPSON LETTERS
(originally in ACER, LACM, MITCHELL POST, FILE)

DRAWER 2A

FIVE SHIPLEY SISTERS

71.2609.085.0546

Cognate Families of Lincoln

Shipley Family

Naomi Shipley and Robert
Mitchell

Kate Thompson Letters

Excerpts from newspapers and other
sources

From the files of the
Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection

1015 N. Alabama St. 10-9-26.
Indianapolis, Ind.

Rev. Louis V. Warren,
Pastor of Christian Church
Zionsville, Indiana

Dear Rev. Warren,

I was nearly ill yesterday and in
blue discouragement as to the future work
and its future possibilities. But I read
three chapters of your book in last evening
with growing faith and a deep realization
of your worth and of the actual
success of your treatments. You really
have done wonders and your
actual exhibit of new material and
of simple, direct reasonable analysis
already is refutation and it opens
the publication path for supporting other
refutations against the Hepburn
Hanks - Herndon side of this
controversy on Lincoln's ancestral
lines. It will bring you supporters.

I even rose to the conviction that I
should publish an article in Century
Magazine as preferred place if it
will accept, it not to be openly along
personal or Knickerbocker lines as at present
of non importance, but along the line of
my own points and swayed by a sort

of reviewing analysis of whatever I
can present in support of your
presentations and in refuting
the declarations of Dr. Barton
where not one grain of evidence
has been presented by him
in proof.

If I even tentatively consider doing
this; and, after getting my notes
from storage, if I determine ^{on} any general
plan or structure for the reviewing
article, I wish to consult you and
give you a chance to strengthen
my entrance into this growing
controversy. I believe I can ~~find~~ ^{find} this
help. I choose the Century as
it can best test out from
the power of my lance as to whether
it aids the Hitchcock-Tenhill
and especially your publications
in my main analyses and by
my own research work or not.

Already I am ready to accord you
high praise and deep appreciations.

I'll have to get me a copy of your
book as soon as may be and will return
yours then.

Most sincerely,

Kati. A. Thompson

Please consider all that I suggest as only tentative of value and not of confidential assistance to you only.

1015 N. Alabama St. Oct. 16 '26.
Indianapolis, Indiana

Dear Rev. Warren,

I have struck a snag of some moment, the signature rather name, J. P. Mitchell, as associated with the Mercer Co. 'Mitchells' on your records. This Mitchell of Wash. Co. ~~is~~ which family, a large one, are by legend and by considerable evidence I obtained in the books and among his descendants or kin there, not reasonably tenable as the kin of "our" family of Mitchells.

I do not believe ^{now} that Robert Mitchell, father of my grandmother Sarah S. Mitchell was living at the date of the Lucy Hauke bond or certificate by her. But the evidence is traditional ^{and this} ~~is~~ ^{my doubt as to the identification of this} ~~is~~ ^{is} yet only by certain recent statements of people in Washington Co. to the effect that a "Bourbon Bob" was not "our kin" — then ^{again} why was not Daniel of Wash. Co. at that date 1791 with his own people in Mercer if his father ^{was} then alive? I feel sure that he ^{Robert} must have made his search for Sarah ^{earlier} than the end of that "two years"; and also, if he was able to stand for Lucy's certificate for marriage, that he would have been serving his mother, Mary

The Daniel M. in Wash. Co. had a son Daniel — He is the bachelor nobody may a little mind was much more of a report.

Mercer Co. Robert is

in her noble appeal to Gov. Shelby.

But I have such abundance of records in both Va. and in N. C. that will I think, very quickly lock together and produce the genealogical list of my Mitchell ancestry to include my line down from Mary Mitchell, for the expose of whose record I now thank you.

But the Mercer Co. records ^{you show to me} ^{some} ^{than that of many} ^{Mitchell (Hewitt)} ^{I need} no other sure conclusion. I need signatures from there, ^{Mercer Co.} of course. If you have them, they would forward my search and yours by being placed in my possession.

I have, by my exhaustive ^{in 1918} search in Bedford Co. ^{and} in several [^] others, connecting with its records, all that in your notes seem to pertain to the names I carried in 1918 and still carry as likely, and I have very definite records from that County by which to interpret ^{if I get the signatures} my values. I had the hope that yours had a deed signed by both a Robert and a Sarah Mitchell. I think

Springfield Feby. 6th 1822

Mr. John Hughes, Clerk of Washington
County Sir I have a son to marry
William H. Mitchell of Mary H. Berry
and oblige yours given under my hand
and seal day and date

Above
Attest
Richard Berry
Daniel Mitchell

Francis Berry (Seal)
One

Dear Rev. Warren --

Remember what I gave you as good
reason for furnishing you this
copy of a Wash. Co. Record. I know
its connections
very exactly

Hate A. Thompson.

Oct. 16. '26

Sworn to before me this 6th day
of February in the usual way
Thos Hughes Clerk

A Record
is
within
from R. A. T.

Opened on A. M.
17 Oct. 21 &

Some lead pencil
changes
added,

I have a tentative
Contract paper
written this Thursday
Oct. 21, to present
for your very
thoughtful consideration
as to be
a helpful
matter to forward
the most individual
and also the most
united progress
of us both
* Will you consider such a paper?

There is not much more to be written.

I am, dear Sir,
Yours truly,
J. H. P.

Over

Letter from R. A. Thompson
to Rev. Warren along with
the returned ms notes
(1) Mercer Co., Ky
(2) Bedford Co., Va.

Oct. 18, '26

L. S. AYRES & COMPANY
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

BALCONY WAITING ROOM

1015 N. Alabama, Oct. 25, 26

Dear Rev. Warren,

Your card came this
A. M. Glad to get the
dates etc. of those two articles
in "Monitor" - Thank you.

I expect to visit the Hon.
A. J. Beveridge. I had as
I told you I think tried
to get him at his home
by a personal call. This
was before our meeting and
before I knew you were
a publisher on Lincoln
line.

I shall, I hope, hear as
to his aims, at least ^{as} to his
relation to the controversial



matters we know about so intimately. If I learn aught of a definite sort along the common need we both now have as to his stand or intention to use or discuss Lincoln's or Nancy Stark's origin, etc., I will write you, while I am in Virginia I think.

You volunteered to write me the introduction to the Pres. of Ill. Hist. Society - I hope to get that and if possible and agreeable to yourself, kindly be very immediate. I prefer at present to have his acquaintance as gained by your presentation for two reasons (1) the intrinsic value is great; (2) ~~it~~ it keeps my present movements where 'tis already in circulation.

But if I do not receive the favor from you, I wish before leaving here, to gain several others of that would help me nearly or perhaps quite as well. My time grows short, as I plan to leave Wed, Nov. 3.

I shall have some photostat signatures to carry along, I hope.

I am in good touch
with the opportunity to
secure my great-great
grandmother, Mary Mitchell's.

I am very sure you
will not communicate
matter to Dr. Barton or
others about my movements
nor about our mutual
discussions of such definite
bearing on the coming
research work. I wish
you to know I am expecting
to be as reticent and
preservative of your matters
of moment. I am hindered by any
to expedite and help you
to forward the letters. I request
enclose an envelope stamp.
Yours in request
Kate A. Thompson.

answered
in carbon
wrong
2007

not separate as you know now.

Washington, D. C., 6-27-26.

Rev. Louis R. Warren
Greenville, Indiana.

Dear Mr. Warren,

If your ^{present} aims are
as broad and inclusive
as you foreshadowed to
me, including the ancestral
complexities that are ^{natural}
therewith and worse, those
of suppositions contradictions
and scandals intermixing
with and checking
the unravelling of facts,



I must know more definitely before helping.
I am too greatly in need of planning
and of a concentrated relation to
my own values and future efforts,
and your immediate line of
researches ^{are now} too unknown to me
to make any pertinent expose
of possibilities for you or ^{even}
suggestive cancellations by
my own exclusions of lot
calities ^{which I have examined recently} along my own original
predetermined and now constant
intent to withdraw my Kin-
folk's enforced relations
within a sensational controversy
or ^{else I mean} to produce the documentary
finds of an absolutely convincing
sort, in proof of a Kniship
by Shipley intermarriages.

I know well where I
stand even now in the dis-
agreeable wedge; and, I think,
I know where you stand.
I also believe I see clearly
where public demand and
receptivity ^{and will give further} give support and also
^{gone} warring hindrance to the

Barton ^{4th} current ⁽²⁾ to
your own ^{publicity which is} as yet a
temporary challenge ⁽³⁾
to my own silence
and singleness of search.

But, do not misunder-
stand this letter. I
will gladly tell ^{later} you
wherein I think your
work might get some
show of support, if you
will let me know
what your present
aims include. Are
they on the line of
the Hankses? the right
Lucy, the right Nancy,

the Joseph of Amelia County's
subdivisions or the Joseph
of Dr. Barton's patching;
are you seeking
to uncover the grand-
father of your own
denials ^{and of Dr. Barton's suggestions} or is ~~there~~ ^{as published} he a hank
of your own analysis?
Or are you pursuing
the line of the Lincolns
of Indiana into their ancestry
as Lincolns ^{who are the} ancestral
stream of power for the
one only Lincoln of might?

I know where you or
others can delve and
delve on these lines



I wish I knew why Beveridge
went to Asheville N. C. - I
think I know he ^{found} as you and
I found find slough of despond
and constant retaradations
to a right & corrective current.
Why does not some great
student of truth and of history
show the South what
Lincoln actually meant
in its salvation? Beveridge
was the right man for
that ^{great life in Lincoln's history} as yet unmade Lincoln
looked of better possibilities
than has ~~had~~ any one of the
existing ^{publications} - but
I believe even he ^{Beveridge} grew entangled
by the wretched lies and scandals
that lie at the door of
the South's responsibility.
Something got him behind;
something diverted his efforts,
and I fear his aim to avoid
ancestral complexities was mired.

I am glad for the united
effort the established "Union"
that is to the credit of Indiana's patriotism

④ and of its Historical workers
~~or Commission~~ to get a
Great Memorial to
Harvey Hays and
to Lincoln! — there
is an expression as I
read matters of a
very proper and of an
inflexible attitude of
proper receptivity to
all the facts and
of refusal to accept
suppositions renderings
of facts along the line
Hancestral publications.
I am gratified as I
was at that conclusion
from the first motion

of my ^{9th} own investigations.
Please ~~don't~~ get me thinking
along the stabilizing
lines of your present
work. I will ^{then} give
you some daylight.
I have approached
the opportunity to publish.
There are too many risks
for the really light
aims I have held
and will hold now
to the end — I will
not offer ^{now any} ancestral
facts of my own dear
people. We are Shipley
and triged I very strongly with



more intellectual types ^{than they} as the
Thompsons and Mitchells
of our line were. The
Shipleys gave us sensitiveness
spiritual force sweetness and
charminess of the English
sort, modesty and unselfish-
ness, tenderness as against
all sufferings animal or human.
They mostly were Quakers
and that decented their
non-assertiveness and kept
them from greatness in
civil placements. But
the three lines ^{Shipley, Thompson, Mitchell} were possessed
of the strictest probity and
most dominating morality.
Their records place them
I am glad to say, in with
the well-to-do, educating
Middle Classes. 'Tis a proud
placement, as I look at things
now and as I always have.
^{the} Ludlberghs and ~~Ludlberghs~~ rise
out of that forceful class. It
is evolution and the human ^{showing} of it.

But I hope ^{12th} you do not intend further exposition of this ^{our} field of Mitchells and Thompsons. You will, however, need to keep your eye open for the great ^{and ascriptions} denials of Mr. Barton, that there was "only one wife" for Abm. L. S., and she not a Shupley, but ~~she was~~ a Bathsheba ^{Herring} ~~Shupley~~, the rightful grandmother of Lincoln. She is very hard to find ^{as} such a finality ~~for~~ — I think she needs documentary proofs ~~for~~ in Va. ^{and still more in Ky.} reports. I would like to touch bottom on this Shupley-Herring matter — it is criminal;

and this is ^{13th} now suggesting
and ^{even} important, if you
are in the same
wedge of fate I am
in. If you can
please give me enough
facts to stabilize my
possible suggestions, but
at the same time,
if you do, I shall
know you should
and will see that
my delivery of even
suggestions is more
than any one ^{actually}
deserves who has



brought me, even conditionally
as a confidential opponent &
to yourself who are now
^{supposedly} pursuing the lines of
the Barton pronouncement.

Remember I refused him
family facts unhesitatingly
and you will recall
that in my understanding
with you, I stated that
all confidences and ~~statements~~
revelations on family lines
meant your consent ^{to}
avoid that line ^{in the future} of your
publicity, or attachments
without my open consent
in your work to come.

Now, so much, so long! But
these researches meant for Beveridge
and now for you they mean
as they have always for me
meant almost disastrous complexi-
ties that makes one resolve

and the wholeness
of aims wobble and
even disappear — I
believe even you
are frequently ^{now} ruined
and rendered incapably
idle except for other
more valued pursuits
and pastimes. Is it not so?
However ^{as I imply above} I believe ^{even} this
sort of revealing is a lot
of actual suggestion
that will help you
seeing your problem.
Yours in friendship
Kate A. Thompson

I leave Md. Nov. 3^d. I'll write ^{again}
Mamie Mitchell's letter is a dear thing from
every standpoint. But I do have a bias.

1015 N. Alabama St., Oct. 30, '26
Indianapolis, Indiana.

Rev. Louis A. Warren
Greenville, Ind. Box 171.

Dear Rev. Warren,

I received a few days ago
the letter of introduction from
the President, Mr. Lesleman, of State
Historical Society of Indiana. He
stated you had asked him; and
makes it directly to the "County
Clerks of Virginia". I never
have the least difficulty in
getting straight at all the
books and records of a civic
nature, and have received the
most courteous attentions on any
small inquiries I have had
to ask of County Clerks. Capital
cities are especially courteous.
Nor was there ought else at the
N. C. State records nor at the
State Hist. Society Library of Phila.
But in the use of Md. State records
as held in one section of the
private library of a society there,
I had to seek and did obtain
a special, fine order ^{from the President} as against

Ever,

the society's regulation and its refusal to permit me to use a certain division of its records (I was not a member, nor introduced by any member). The President was instantaneous in granting when I had denominated the search and its aims - but this sort of an entrance brings publicity. This President was fine ^{and} graciously comprehending, however. ^{he will aid me again.}

I thank you very sincerely of course I do. But I could ^{have} gained the same result had I not settled that there must be no expansion of publicity. Nor do I desire to ask by claims, if any, of any social or ^{kinship} ~~relations~~ relations. So I shall not expect to use or to consent to the use of my closeness and ^{work with} ~~relationships~~ relationships of this sort ^{in order} to obtain the opening of doors. Not till my own success pronounces itself. You and Mr. Barton, I think know full well how I have betrayed, by ^{my} own delving, places and records to other-seekers. - that is to my own credit and prouder I am deeply capable and "scientific" since I wait for sometimes, ^(you and myself) we, in our consultations, most truly agreed to work in a harmony and to keep each other's betrayals and processes and aims and results secret, unless published by the other. Had 'not Pres. Schmidt of the Illinois Historical Society needed too much

^{to be} explained by me, a stranger, if I had
 personally presented a request
 for a recommendation; and, had you
 not voluntarily ^{named its value to me} because of your close
 relations with him and, because of
 your publications which give you
 prominence; and, had I not known
 the recommendation by you to him
 would be given for the asking to you
 without my matters of a confidential
 sort coming into discussion, I
 would not have sent you the
 request to use your influence
 to secure me such a "pass" into
 the closed-in privileges of such
 a historical conservation place as
 that of the Ind. Society to which
 indirectly referred to above.

So kindly "keep the fact" and
 discuss the not within your
 own field. I mentioned that Prof.
 Thompson desired my notes etc. in
 case of my death, whether I succeed
 or not in finding a crucial settling
 document that will ^{bring the truth to light}
 inevitably along our ^{yours and mine} common beliefs.
 I did this to show you I am maintaining
 an entirely free and determined

upon search from ⁴ the time of
work in 1918, repeated longer and
more patiently in winter of 1923-24,
and to be continued now rather
intermittently, but, with the exception
of my friendly and confidential
publicity or openness to yourself, it
is to be as entirely free. ^{But it} is
liable to be along other determina-
tions and processes not yet even
pronounced to you ^{or} ~~now~~ to any other
one, who is in touch ^{since I am still in my Europe} with myself.

Now, Rev. Warren, you certainly
can see that I wish no opening
up of myself and my work
to any one. I am in full appreciation
of the greatness and of the fine
progress of the Indiana Historical
Society. I long to unite with
it on ~~the~~ ^{alone} my own merits, and not
only that but to work my material
towards its archives, would
delight me as I love Indiana,
the home of my Henry, forbear,
from 1821 and of my life's work,
which I count high in merit
and attainments as well. So please
never hesitate, and decide ^{now} that my
songs, and doings will be in the

future as they have been in the past,
 of a reticent, modest, and apparently
 unsuccessful ^{sort} because, unknown. But
 they do take patient, persevering, even
 quite courageous, self-maintenance;
 and I may utterly fail to accomplish
 what I aim for, the showing of fixed
 records that will support the school
 as you term Ida Tarbell, C. S. H. V. ^{And}
 R. M. T.; Mrs. Hitchcock, 'Yourself' in
 public pronouncements. Whatever
 the truth may be I hope for a
 fixity that will end controversy
 and disputations about Lincoln's
 ancestry. A controversy such as this must end,

Prof. Healeman is a capable head
 of the Indiana Society and I value
 his influence and kind letter. ^{And}
 it may even serve me in getting
 free entrance to other than civic
 records - I shall I hope meet him later.

I have a respect for Beveridge's
 capacity, his mode of preparation
 and his care in pronouncements.
 But I have not written him,
 chiefly because I decide against
 any possibility of his inference
 (thru my seeking to know as to his
 intentions now about treatments
 on the ancestral matters)
 that I am needing to know

because of the ⁶ new angle now
showing thru your publications
and reputations against certain
pronouncements of Dr. Barton. ^(even if I do write) He
is to know nothing directly from
me as to my estimate of your
standpoints etc. My questioning
him about his intent now would
I am sure ^{belikely to} have ^{no} going implications.
So I shall not write him now,
not till my own work shows fur-
ther results and I know my aims clearly.

I know from your letter that you
did not expect to consult Dr. Schmidt
about me personally except I wrote
you an answer. consenting to
such a presentation - I very surely
do not desire you to do so with
him or with any other one, now
intimately ^{interested} related to our purposes
and our conclusions on the line
of Lincoln's biography or history.
I am glad to feel sure you see
my determination is strong to remain
free and to work on without
any publicity unless I myself
seek it or publish what I
please to offer - Keep me unrevealed.
I shall write briefly to thank
President Coleman, and I now
thank you and request that

you now do not ask for any
letter from Mr. Schmidt. I
may as you so kindly say need
to arouse in him greater interest
and secure alone or with your
aid a more influential kindness
from him later on. Thanks

I will name for you here
again that my permanent
forwarding address still is.

Care Mr. F. F. Gordon,
3254 Washington Blvd
Indianapolis.

He is a cousin on my mother's
side. His mother & my mother were ^{dearly} Sisters,
daughters of Theo. Vernon ^{of Leicester, Mass.}

Yours most sincerely
and cordially

Kate A. Thompson

November 2, 1936

Miss Kate Thompson
1215 North Alabama St.
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Miss Thompson:

I have read very carefully the letter which I received from you yesterday and I think that it allows me to know your mind relative to your desires about publicity.

It will be my purpose to follow out as closely as possible your wishes, and I shall not even mention your name to anyone without your consent.

I hope however that you will kindly advise me if you find any record which establishes the lines we are working on, so that I may not make any unnecessary pilgrimages. It is needless to say that I will be alert to anything that would help to fortify my position.

May you have a very successful and pleasant trip in search for the vital documents.

Sincerely yours

Nov. 9, 1936

Miss Kate Thompson
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Miss Thompson:

I am enclosing some extra copies of the review and editorial comment which appeared in the Louisville Courier Journal of Sunday December, 7, 1936.

I thought you might be interested in learning the viewpoint of the reviewer towards the letter of Mrs. Vawter.

This letter I shall mark "please forward." hoping that it may reach you in due season.

Sincerely yours,

Lynchburg, Va., Nov. 17, 1926.

Dear Rev. Warren,

Your letter containing two newspaper cuttings came to me here yesterday. Thank you. The cuttings are both alike; i.e., identical, and I am enclosing one.

I think you must have intended to have sent me the one from Louville Courier Journal of Mrs. Varater. You indeed. That would be very illuminating and interesting and I shall hope you will yet at least loan me a copy.

The other article or editorial is paying you quite intense tribute as I regard it, since that paper has been I think loyal and supporting of Dr. Barton. Just what it means to imply by the adverse criticism pertaining to your utterance of a "regrettable departure from the field of true investigation", I think I know. But if the paper values on the side of supporting the truth of Mrs. Varater's letter then the above referred to criticism may not be ^{as it seems at first} a sudden attempt to substantiate

Mr. Barton's far more wholly regrettable departure of a very fundamental sort, from the field of proved facts into that of speculation. Sometimes I think that if I myself were to enter the field of speculation, ^{and say my personal say, it would be} I prefer to call it otherwise than ^{speculative} ^{the} ^{very} ^{legitimately} scientific field of legendary and mythical values which as an average mode of declaring actual history, can and often does surpass the values supposedly historic of the ^{first} ^{public} ^{as} ^{into} the ^{MS or} ^{Printed} utterances from whomsoever or whatsoever of the prior date declarations. This latter ^{is} ^{very} ^{removable} ^{history}, but the former ^{is} ^{the} ^{legendary} actually the combined beliefs of a good large community ^{the legends coming on down} from the actual period of the related events (in my estimation even as against the esteemed Louisville Courier Journal) actually supports the necessity for and the value of an intense, even a multiplex, investigation including reasonable "speculations" provided they relate or grow out of the dates, names, events, human characterizations, and motives, that are proved facts.

really illuminating

3.
as supposedly actual history for the place
and time and people involved. I
would like, then, very much to see that
^{recent} evaluation of "the Courier" so as to see
around your case and of course
more distinctly ~~around~~ my own relations to
historic inquiry, etc.

As I reread the hastily uttered thought
above written, I wish greatly that I
might condense and copy, but I
am in a great rush. I leave
here permanently for investigations
that demand another headquarters.

I am now on process of eliminating
the "take-off" counties from ^{parent} the
Brunswick County if ^{it's} possible
to eliminate any of the original
whereabouts of that restless, determined
wandering group of Scotch-Irish
(in the main) which so gladly
"settled down" into ^{the} Kentucky parts
we know of. - I hope, indeed
I do, to benefit, and even to further
produce ^{into the field} ~~the~~ ^{non-} ~~narrowing field~~ ^{rapidly} regions
where at least certain "folks" got
into the records. This is just a
patient, tiring, unremunerative work.
But to me 'tis highly animating.

4
Kindly use the Indianapolis
address. But your letter went
astray because the address stated
3254 Washington Street instead
of Blvd. I insert on a slip
of paper the proper address.
At present Mr. Logsdon is being
asked to hold ^{my} mail because my
changes are not yet worked
out into a schedule.

Lynchburg is a good center
for a lot of countries in the
original range of the Scotch
Irish migrations. - County
Clerks are, however, scenting the game
and increasing in their cupidity
and a process of ^{buying so-called local genealogists} buying or scratching
up records ^{many being found with old families} along the lines of
the families, supposedly now on
Lincoln's ancestry, is a new, new
and even a regrettable growth
since 1918; I find I am "wary"
and growingly "foxy"; but total
evasions are, I think, unwise
I prefer to ^{buy} annul this undue excitement
that Mr. Barton's and other publications

are producing.

Now, trusting that you will destroy
and at least treat in wholeness
of confidence, such improvisations
as this which are really helpful
enough on the "speculative" side of
"this problem I send this. I'll
tell you later, perhaps, just
what counts" to eliminate
or I may as Goldich says
"tell the flat world."

I like that envelope picture
very much! But I advise ^{against}
its use for our communications,

Very cordially

Kate A. Thompson.

My address

Care Frank J. Logsdon

3254 Washington Boulevard
Indianapolis
Indiana

Her Phone Wash. 2-2581

November 28, 1936

Miss Kate Thompson
3354 Washington Blvd.
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Miss Thompson:

I have been so very busy in an evangelistic enterprise this past two weeks, that I have had little time for my Lincoln correspondence.

Your letter written at Lynchburg was received in due season and also the enclosed clipping. I regret that I do not have a copy of the Mrs. Vawter letter in the Louisville Courier of 1874. All I have is some brief extracts from it.

I received this past week a letter from a Mr. Thompson of Springfield, Ill. congratulating me upon the book. He says his people originally lived in Washington County, Ky. and were related to the Mitchells. He has no history of the family however.

I find in my excerpts from the George Rogers Clark papers in the Draper Collection at Madison Wis. this note "Continental Applications; John Berry, William Berry, Frances Berry, Benj. Logan, James Thompson etc. Oct. 20, 1774." This is quite an early date and I am wondering if this group was in Kentucky as early as this. It would imply that they were. These Thompson names I also find Lawrence, born Dec. 28, 1835, Hezikah born Mar. 18, 1863.

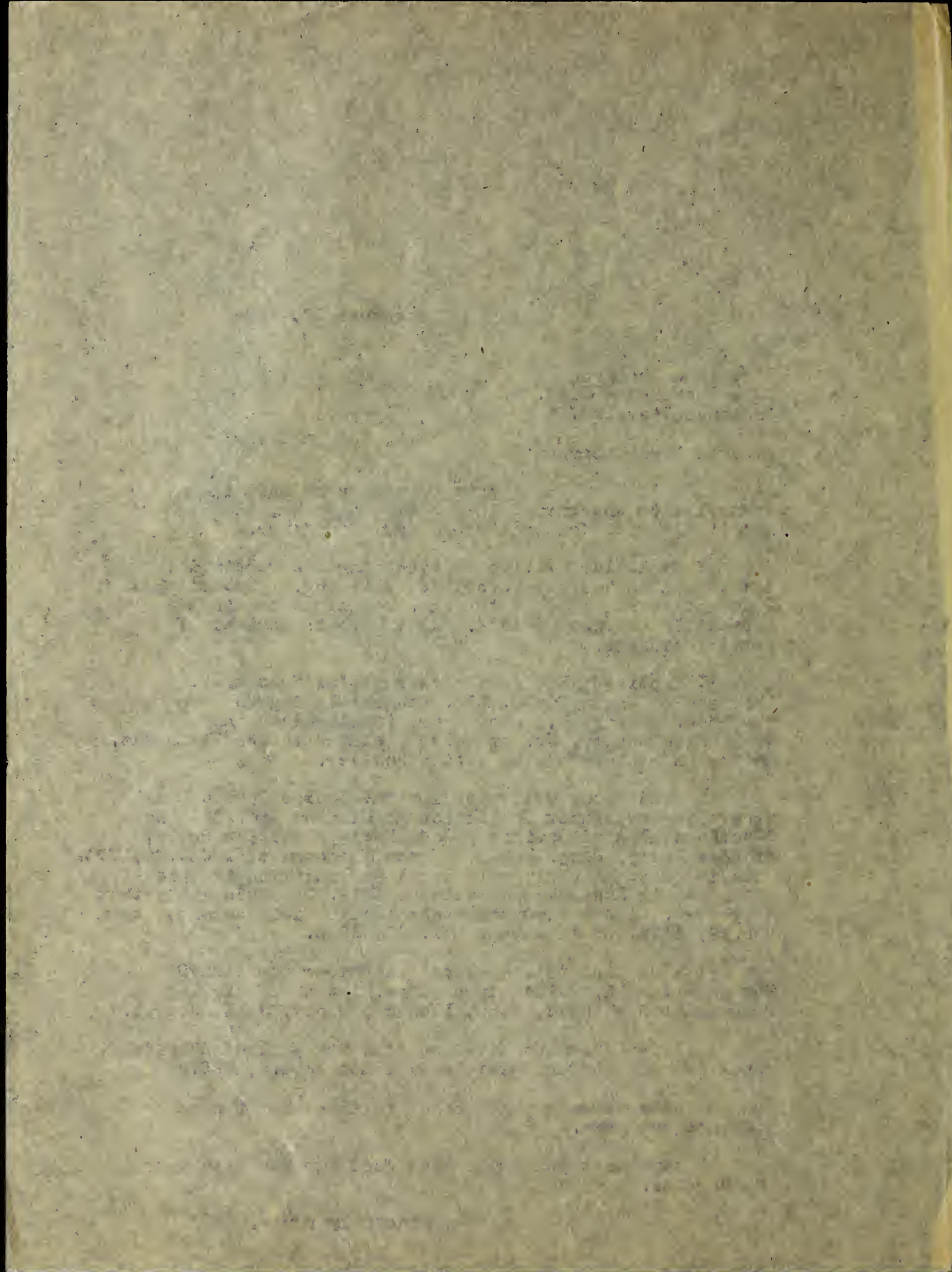
I also find these persons in Mercer County 1791 Martha Mitchell, evidently a widow. and the following Thompsons: Archibald, John, Leonard, Henry, John, Joseph.

William Thompson lived on "the Dry Fork of Chaplin about two miles from Hardin's Mill" on Sept. 8, 1789.

These names may not be of interest but I have just noticed them.

I hope that you are having good success with your researches.

Sincerely yours,



is settled by
 it, nothing is
 available,
 as it goes
 to you by
 previous
 surety of
 confidential
 treatment -
 it is rushed
 and not as
 exact
 as I
 might
 produce
 in better
 form and
 by some
 of
 subject.
 K. A.
 Thompson

Washington, D. C., 2-8-27
 Govt Hotel D. C., Room 132.

Dear Rev. Warren

This is just for yourself - I ask you to destroy it - as nothing

Yours of Nov. 28th as I took its
 meaning and intent demanded no
 immediate communication in response,
 and was received by forwarding to me
 here, where I arrived on Dec. 11th
 from research work in western
 counties ^{of Va.} I was greatly run down
 and in need of modern comforts.
 My eyes had suffered badly from
 the imperfect focusing on the large
 books, which I could not lift or get
 placed so I could see the whole of
 the pages thru the reading part of
 my bi-focals. The strain became a
 handicap for ^{last} three important places,
 Rockbridge Co., Lexington; Staunton of Augusta
 Co.; Harrisonburg of Rockingham Co.
 There, also I am compelled not to use
 my eyes in long continuance either in
 Congressional Library or at my room in
 compelling and readings at night.

2nd stage
how will my general health stand
such constant employment as my
notes demand if I ^{work as I would greatly like to do, to} get two and two
together on so many lines and phases
of ^{as I carry on} investigations - I visited before going
into the territory of Old Augusta, the
western divisions or counties taken off
from Amelia County or Old Brunswick -
also one other adjoining county not from
Amelia County.

I ^{first} visited Charlotte, Ruthburg, Amherst,
living in Lynchburg ^{ten days} as center, then Bedford,
from which, on to Roanoke, from which,
the round trip ^{1st to Fannettsville of Battleground and 2nd} to Lexington. Then to
Staunton, from which, ^{1st to Lexington, round trip, and} the round trip to
Rockingham ^{2nd}. From Staunton, to Washington.

The buses are now a great forwarding of
such travel among all these places,
as railroad schedules and connections
are simply almost completely ^{very tiresome, even} detrimental
travel in such work as mine. Especially
are the bus lines of Shenandoah valley
delightful help in getting to right places.

I think that ^{that} Mr. Thompson of Springfield
Ill. ^{stated} "you lie" to Mitchell of Wash. Co.
Ky. ^{very probably} is not in our line of either Thompsons or
Mitchells - There are ~~many~~ descendants now

3d page

living in or near to Springfield, Ky., from
another group ^{and perhaps two groups} of Thompsons and another large
family of Mitchells, both of whom were
^{early and long known} well known by our branches not to be
any kin on our lines. I know rather
intimately the names ^{there} of the early Mitchells
and Thompsons who were and who were
not of our kinfolk. Mercer Green
and other counties had ^{scattered members and} divisions ^{of Ky.}
our kinfolk, so had Union county, and
one ^{other} son of our pioneer Seth Thompson left
Ky. ^{and one, Richard, I am not sure as to his presence in Ky. or elsewhere.} early for Indiana. ~~Charles Thompson~~
The descendants of "Reverie" in Union Co.
and of "Charles" of Indiana I can
not ^{now} name — the latter ^{whose descendants} were in
Gentryville in 1877 I think, and communicated
^{and visited our home and letters came to us} with my father — a member was in the
Indiana legislative from that branch
of our kin ^{and a couple of sons were educated and later a while lived in England.} The names "Lawrence" Thompson
and "Hezekiah" belong in the branch not
our kin. I think the "Continental Appli-
cations" naming John Berry, Wm Berry,
Frances Berry, Ben. Logan, James Thompson in
Oct. 20, 1774, ^{you name as in 124.} are ^{of men} from western Virginia ^{and very early in Ky.} —
I have noted these men ^{from western Va. very surely!} — Ben. Logan
at Fincastle (I omitted naming my visit to it)
The Thompsons (Archibald John, Lemuel
Berry, John, Joseph) ^{you name for residents} in Mercer Co. in 1791
are not members of our family, but

at ^{that} date ^(4th page) there were some of our Mitchell family including the "Mary Mitchell" whose granddaughter was Sally Mitchell, etc.

I can not now, in this elaborate and ^(sort of) pronounce completely or exactly — The difficulties of completing ^{as suggestive or affirmative} any genealogy on my Mitchell and Berry lines especially are incredibly great ^{not only to me but} to any one who tries such unravelling of the names as frequently descending in exact repetitions — The Shipleys are even a great multitude, all connected, all bearing certain names in all branches of the ancestral lines — "Robert" is one such ^{name}.

Thanks for these names ^{mentioned above but I had the names before} — I ~~can~~ not be sure as to the "Wm Thompson" who lived on the "Dry Fork of Chaplin" on "Sept 8, 1789" — I think he may connect, but no ^{exact} evidence.

I enclose a copy of Mr. Barton's story just out in "Liberty", week ending Feb. 5th. I suppose you know of it and have read it. This week brings an article comparing Lincoln and Washington. He seems trying both these ways of re-vivifying himself as against very considerable ^{general repulsion and} criticism for his harsh utterances of scandal as to Lincoln's ^{birth and} breeding. It must have been a little out of way for his ^(Barton's) mental attitudes of recent date to

compare the aristocrat and the man of lowly birthright so as to give Lincoln ascendancy above the former - it, the general treatment, seems a strained effort and not a convincing comparison tho' I have long estimated Lincoln as the true American and as the very much greater leader of the ^{whole} people in thought, feeling, and in a much closer and epoch-making warfare - thru Civil Warfare by Lincoln's courageous constructive analyses of new ideas, in battle with what had wrongfully been executed into governmental acts and pronouncements, state supremacy and slavery having been constitutionally and habitually established ^{as privileges at least} in both North as well as well as in South, creation of unionism and emancipation makes him out-look Washington and Wilson, the latter of these two, in my estimate, being the real and only rival in statesmanship and war leadership with Lincoln -

The "Bar Sinister" whose heroine is Lucy Hanks and whose magnanimous (?) hero is Henry Sparrow, is a web ^{of fancy} interwoven with the assertions of suppositious facts as previously presented in "The Paternity" and the first volume of "The Life of Lincoln". Now, who

are the class of readers and thinkers
to whom that story proclaims the "final
word" as to even its ^{entirely fictional} vital facts (?) (1) the
final charter motherhood of Lucy
after two early quite incidental and
probationary lapses, (2) ^{the} supposition, rescue,
from a Court's prerogatives of examining
and penalizing of Lucy, by Henry Sparrow;
(3) the entirely suppositional care of and
affectionate mothering ^{in Elizabeth Sparrow} in lieu of any rightful
possession of or intercommunications of Lucy,
by Sparrow's ^{Thomas} ^{consent in his home} ~~not~~ ^{supposedly} ~~Hanks's~~ ^{home}
though ^{it} is ^{also} ^{supposedly} ^{by} ^{Henry} ^{and} ^{Lucy} ^{as} ^{the} ^{later} ^{home}, Henry Sparrow's; (4)
the final marriage not from the home
of her foster parents, supposedly Thomas and
Elizabeth (Hanks) Sparrow, but from the Berry's
in distant Washington Co. for reasons Dr. Barton
knows he dare not surmise and so declare,
(5) the entirely suppositional narrative of the
Virginia case of a father for Nancy in Va.,
where such abandonments in general were
a likely charge in Court against either
parent; (6) the suppositional pronouncements and
identifications of that Joseph Hanks as solitary
and unrelated in his migrations and settlings
into & in Va. & just by with ^{not} any other Hanks, any
Sparrow, any Berry, any Mitchell ^{as neighbors, etc.,} ^{two last}

7th
named members later in Ky. being there able
to certify quite responsibly and openly in
support of Lucy's marriage with the
"magnanimous" Sharrow - where were these
supposedly nearest of kin ^{Hanks + Sharrow} since by the
showings of ^{this} fiction they were kindly observant
and friendly to Lucy and her child Nancy
Hanks, a child abandoned then by her father &
Lucy and her ^(Nancy's) father, the Va. planter

How this story with its impossibilities can
make the appeal that verities would make
is to be answered by two explanations, (1)
the readers who believe its implications
are those who have accepted all the
abnormalities that were a fabric during
the life of Lincoln, (2) ^{and} they are those ^{others}
whose morals and at least their thoughts
are tinged with desire for the sensational
and the stories of slander and
of intrigue in man's relations to
women in history as well as in
the present morally careless period. Per-
haps by a 3^d answer, viz., the South, in a
large degree, still stands willing to accept
any sort of tinge as against the truth and
greatness of Abraham Lincoln. Such deleterious
matter does make undue appeal and does
detract from the just estimate of the General

8th

average of those who do find such
reading as these fictions about Lincoln
interesting or convincing? I have learned here
how easily I could ^{now here as I have learned elsewhere} receive remunerations for
my own entrance into this controversy by
publications at least in daily papers.

Does Dr. Barton assume that he can
finally fully divert skilled criticism from
genuine students and historical societies
simply by writing side by side in "Liberty"
magazine the pronouncement of fiction -
fact in story form and by the comparison
showing or attempting to show the ascendancy
of the Lincoln greatness over that of
Washington? - why try any paralleling
as ever distinctiveness, individuality ^{means greatness} in
the utmost analyses?

Or does Dr. Barton concede his previous failure
to make his "The Paternity" and "The Life of
Lincoln" the scientific pronouncements of
facts as to Lincoln's ancestry? Or is this
further extension, into print in a lower realm
of publication, simply expressing his determination
to publish matter for which remunerative
returns are sure to come? Along this
line, success will fill any vacancy as
existing by the other publications. Sensa-
tional pronouncements will soon except in a proper court.

9th

Now, there must be noted by all well informed research workers along ancestry of Lincoln that Mr. Barton falls far short of proper evidence to prove that the Nancy Hanks who married Thomas Lincoln in Washington Co. was the alleged daughter of Lucy Hanks, the alleged daughter of Joseph Hanks, the pioneer into Kentucky who made the will, ^{which came} ~~made~~ to enter history by Mrs. Hitchcock. Also he does not prove, nor make reasonably corroborating that the Joseph Hanks, the alleged father of Lucy is the Joseph who first entered U. S. on the "Northern Neck". It is more likely that the Joseph Hanks who migrated into that section of Kentucky lived among other Knifolk ^{in Virginia as in Kentucky} and neighbors Hanks, Berry, Sparrow, Mitchell people. Corroborations otherwise than for Mr. Barton's claim exist and may yet produce exact records.

Nor has he proved that, even had he verified his pronouncement that Lincoln's mother is illegitimate daughter of the alleged Lucy, she did not live from girlhood as foster daughter of, or as close kin to Richard Berry within her home on Beech Fork, Washington Co., Ky. till her marriage if not later. It is all such a twist with, for me, such a tangle of repudiations

10th

that sometimes, in fact now almost altogether^{so},
I stop all action of investigating, compiling,
even of thinking, ~~and~~ ^{being hindered by} sensations or thoughts
as to the present entirely unwise continuance along
our lines, Rev. Warren! Just at present while
living in Washington, there are rare opportu-
nities for other occupations and interests that
appeal to one's highest capacity. I am, in
spite of my needs to economize and to work hard
on researches in Congressional Library and in
putting all I have into some degree of scientific
and other order, having a good time and
living quite pleasantly at the P-Q Hotel.

The granddaughter of R. Mitchell Thompson, my
uncle, died. Mrs. Wm. Bennett of Louisville, whose husband
is partner (active mgr) of "Bourbon Stock Yards" in Louisville
has written that she would be glad to join me here
for a week before Congress closes. She puts it up to me
and I say "come" and set the 18th for her arriving. She
was very generous and helpful to me in fall and
winter of 1923-'24 which I spent in Louisville,
making two round trips to counties of Ky. alone, and
by her invitation and ^{her own personal} Franklin Car, with her, to Har-
rodsburg, Stanford, Leas Orchard, Lexington, Frankfort.
At three places as shown by above numbers, stops of rather
short, too short, periods were made for my researches.
Her father, Andrew and his brother, Nathaniel, (under age), entered
"Union" service at beginning of Civil War, serving till its end, the
older one by distinct bravery, at close of war, became a Captain.
He later was elected twice as member of House in Ky. Assembly,
once representing Wash. Co., once Jefferson where he resided for
his later life. Maggie-Belle is patriotic and in touch ^{now} with
my work as she was earlier in knowledge of her grandfather's and
her cousin C. H. Vawter's services in clearing up ^{the} matters ^{about} Lincoln's marriage.

new #

(19th page)

I even began to prepare a review
of Mr. Barton's story, but with the
appearance of the article in this
week's issue of "Liberty" facing me
as well as the ^{greater} previous ^{publication's} matter

I feel that my treatment ^{is short a content} ^{using espe-}
~~ally only~~ the ^(as chiefly obtained incidentally by me) ^{material} would not

contain the absolute evidence which
I firmly believe is the ^{only} ^{proof}
of publications that ^{by me help to} can ^{controvert}
the tide of falsities continuing now
in support of the Herndon fabrica-
tions as to Lincoln's ancestry.

So I stand now still ^{determined} to follow my
slogan from 1918 on till now: "nothing
of publicity ^{except documents} and ^{not, then,} nothing
of ^{some document or combi-}
nation of documents ^{by whomsoever} and facts ^{do} appear
as complete evidence that will stop
controversy! May you or anybody find them!

Whatever I do not do to advance the
cause of research I know I am ^{now} ^{able}
to declare ^{or expose} ^{in many places} where the search will
be unavailing along certain lines.
eliminations can greatly aid and focus the search.

(This was begun & finished late
night - It should be re-written
but I am too tired of it to better it now.)

Allen - me to close here - with best wishes
Please never state this matter of doubt to any one as far as my conscience more than others.
Kale. A. Thompson

(12th page)

Hoguer now must allow that if I did not know so well where Mr. Barton jumbled facts together without having presented correct foundations, I would find his story of Lucy rather fascinating ^{as reading first} reading, and that is just why it discourages me from entering into any publicity. I wonder if you do not feel just so, and yet you are free from the line of possible kinship to Lincoln. * Such a possibly ^{halts me now} staggers me and I wish evidence against such a fact would be convincing. But I have been startled by resemblances as I have looked ^{carefully} at the great exhibit of photos etc. of Lincoln in the Aldroyd Collection here - I am reminded of first one and then of ^{a number of} others of my Thompson Kinfolk. No one had all the physical looks, but a composite of the looks as found scatteringly revealed those many of the Thompsons is very real to me here. ^{and} Somehow it seems very Thompson! The ^{new} ^{any} ^{doubt} ^{as to} ^{this} ^{fact} ^{among} ^{Jeffers} ^{Mitchell} ^{Thompsons!} ^{are} ^{truly} ^{discarded} ^{from} ^{Shipleys} ^I ^{have} ^{seen} ^{living} ^{Shipleys} ⁱⁿ ^{Baltimore} ^{descendants} ^{from} ^{my} ^{line} ^{of} ^{ancestry} ^{with} ^{resemblance} ^{to} ^{us} ^{but} ^I ^{do} ^{not} ^{know} ^{the} ^{Mitchell} ^{look} ^{of} ^{us} ^{except} ^{as} ^{the} ^{Thompson} ^{and} ^{it} ^{may} ^{be} ^{the} ^{line} ^{of} ^{resemblance} ^{to} ^{Lincoln} - it is strangely ^{curiously} ^{impressive} ^{and} ^{startling} ^{to} ^{me} ^{and} ^I ^{can} ^{not} ^{fully} ^{know} ^{only}.

seem obsessed to write nothing of value - Pardon, make nothing of what I do say. but it will I think aid + interest you now.

Excuse my writing the finish here -
I ran out of paper of this tablet kind
with this sheet

For which kind introductions
I can serve you quite adequately
later if you wish to meet
some of my people who are now
rightfully reticent along the
Lincoln ancestry question.

Thanking you for the
notes, even tho' they do not as
yet further my work.

Very truly Yours -

Kate A. Thompson

*Written before
my planning*
H. B. Sorry I did not save you
from calling for MSS, etc. But I thought
as you were coming and use an auto,
it would be little trouble and safer
than mailing our MSS to be exchanged.

Thanks so much for waving
rights of courtesy. Kindly consider the
facts of my "Of Lincoln's Clan" not open matter
even for you who perhaps may deserve much.

Oct. 13, 26 Yellow R. A. T

I noticed you read from a typed sheet such a record ^{as I then thought it} with those signatures. I exclaimed "There it is!" and I expected it within your notes. All are written in lead pencil and much was illegible in wording. But I would have recognized such a deed I think had it been in Hebrew - an unknown tongue to me. It was not there.

(a) Will you not at least answer by letter and inform me definitely or send me a copy if you have it? Send it to me at my present address.

Also send me if you have it (1) Robert's signature to that "Lucy" paper ^{and} (2) Mary Mitchell's ^{my great great} or tell me how + where to get it, and (3)

John Berry's, (4) "Lucy Hanks's" then if I make connections ^{by the signatures} I'll see that you know this part of my genealogy as soon as possible.

(C) Please include as a real courtesy as well as help, (1) Introduction to Mr. Otto L. Schmidt, Pres. of the Illinois State Historical Society; (2) A letter of recommendation ^{my} for historical scientific research work to serve me where private vaults & libraries are now closed except to those so introduced -

Ever

I believe I should record with me all coming places of research the "transfers" or records traced by me in 1914 of Am. C. Va. Hanks. It will be in your own name, and

All products for my genealogy

my great great grandmothers

June 21, 1937

Miss Kate Thompson
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Miss Thompson:

After so long an interval I am rather ashamed to write to you. I was glad to learn of your progress in your research work and hope that by this time you are safely back in Indianapolis, having been successful in your quest.

I have done practically nothing since last I saw you relative to the problem in which we both are interested, but I hope to get a week or two this summer to do some research work and am undecided as to just what I could strike out.

Possibly you may have some suggestion as to some field that you were not able to cover that might be fruitful. I do not want to go over the ground you have covered as I feel that you have done it so thoroughly it would be useless for me to follow you.

My book on the Indiana Lincolns comes on very slowly and I fear it will be a long time before it is ready.

Kindly let me know where you are now located and any suggestion that you feel might be helpful in planning my summer trip.

Sincerely yours,

June 27, 1927

Miss Kate A. Thompson
2106 G St. N.W.
Washington D.C.

My dear Miss Thompson:

I was glad to learn that your efforts have brought to your own mind some satisfaction as to the origin of your family and their economic and social standing.

As I suggested in my previous letter, I have done little work along the line in which you are primarily interested. Only as I have come across the Shipley name have I made enquiries, but one or two good clues have come from these casual meetings.

I now have the family tree of Murray Shipley dating back to the English ancestry of 1660, also the promise this month of a Shipley genealogy compiled by a man now deceased but whose widow has promised to turn the book over to me, for review. Have also had some correspondence with the North Carolina Shipleys.

My publishing plans have not changed since my last conference with you and I am primarily interested now in the Indiana history of the Lincolns. This may be said, however, that when I come to speak of Nancy Hanks and her death in Indiana I shall want to give a chapter to a discussion of her traits of character and other considerations which one might expect in the story of the proving of Abraham's mother.

I admire your loyalty to your family, and I also would like very much to see my own theory about the mother of Nancy Hanks verified, but of far greater importance than either of these purely personal aspects, is the responsibility resting upon us to see that one known as "Honest Abe," should have his true ancestry revealed. He is no longer here to defend these slanders, and if we can in any possibly way befriend him in this matter I feel it is our sacred duty to do so.

When you were here I placed in your hands every item I possessed which I felt might help you in your quest. This added material I have collected is at disposal to your investigation. I had hoped that by this time you had come to some definite plan as to the release of your material, and I sincerely trust that your months of effort will not close with purely personal gratification. If I can be of any assistance to you in any way I hope you will call upon me.

I leave her for a two weeks vacation on July 12, I had hoped that you might suggest some place you had been unable to reach for my summer effort, but I find none. Sincerely,

March 31, 1938

Miss Kate Thompson
Indianapolis, Ind

My dear Miss Thompson:

You will be pleased to learn, I am sure, that my new appointment to the directorship of the the new Lincoln foundation as suggested in the letter head will now give me time for concentrated research.

It need not be said that I shall give my best efforts in tracing every possible clue to try and show the inherent genius in Abraham Lincoln.

My theory that his grandmother was a Shipley is being more and more confirmed as I gain additional information. I know enough about the family now to feel confident that there are all those fine qualities there that were possibly lying dormant in the young Lincoln.

I should like very much to know if you have been able to bring yourself to the decision that you should bring your findings before the public. I sincerely hope that you may feel like doing this as I am sure it will make a contribution to historical knowledge.

You you be willing to let me know your mind on this matter, as I am keenly interested in seeing you bring forth your findings.

Sincerely yours,

Y.W.C.A.; Nov. 15, 28.
Indianapolis, Ind.

Rev. L. A. Warren
Director Lincoln Research
Foundation
Lincoln Natl. Life Ins. Co.
Ft. Wayne, Indiana

Dear Rev. Warren

This is a late response
to yours of Nov. 23, 1928.
I came here on Nov. 4 with the
Hoosier Courier for Hooper
and voted. But business
and many interests among
friends and some who
care as to my past efforts
along Lincoln studies are
back using up my planned
or period of visiting my

"Home town".

If you incidentally are in the city and care to see me even tho' my attitude and my performance along the Lincoln work etc. are now and have been stalled, since you knew my aims last I shall be glad to talk a little to settle your mind rather to write to you.

I probably will remain into the middle or end of next week. Please set the hour and place to meet me. You or some one will be welcome at my present location, but might prefer some other place, to which I will come without trouble.

Yours sincerely
Kate A. Thompson

November 17, 1928

Miss Kate A. Thompson
Y. W. C. A.
Indianapolis, Ind.

My dear Miss Thompson:

I was very glad to hear from you and learn of your presence in Indianapolis, and regret that my plans do not call for a visit there this coming week.

Mrs. Hitchcock, who made such an extensive search for Hanks family records as early as 1894 has turned over all of her data to me and I am now getting it ready for publication. She had gathered the history of more than 2660 Hanks Families.

Her papers do not make clear the Shipley and Thompson and Mitchell relations and I shall largely have to rely on my own researches and those of my friends who have worked in this field, to present an adequate history of these cognate families. There are apparently a dozen or more people at work on the Hanks and Shipley families just now and Mrs. White has just Completed a very exhaustive search for records in Virginia which has been quite successful.

I should like very much to know your plans for the release of the records you have gathered and if I can be of any possible assistance to you in this respect, will you please advise me. If you trip back east brings you this way I should like very much to see you.

Sincerely yours,

My attitude is not in this confidential
letter is open and mentionable of
your life
And that you

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1040 South Coast Blvd
La Jolla, Calif.; 2-3-'31.

Rev. Louis A. Warren, Director
and Research Head
Museum of Lincoln Historical Research
Foundation

a divisional dept of Lincoln Natl's
Life Insurance Co.
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Mr. Warren:

Through favor of Prof Stith Thompson
of Bloomington, Indiana on last Friday
P. M., I received a letter of (for me) a
very great import. It included entire
quotations from a letter of a advisory
and request nature from yourself
and a very informing article (from a
newspaper) by Kate Wilner Rabb, whose
work is fine and whom I know
admirably. At your suggestion and
intent, Prof Stith Thompson wrote me
for a decision in answer to your
very generous proposition; viz, a direct
invitation which clearly requests me
to place all my findings in their
present condition of incompleteness
in your museum files to be
there specifically denominated and
maintained permanently as the
Kate Thompson Collection.

This is a very appealing call for
my earnest consideration. Indeed
I have been carefully weighing the
matter from every angle of my

Knowledge, experience and the collections made in many places of records, in each of four eastern states, N. Car., Va., Md., Pa., as well as in Kentucky, by three trips with long stayings to exhaust the possible findings ~~if possible~~ could, my intimate work and major findings more ^{chiefly} from lands and associated groupings of owners and neighborhoods, my documents chiefly deeds which are far more elucidating ^{than are other records} in uncovering human relations and story of mis-
grating society of associated folk.

Shirley, Betty, Thompson, Mitchell lines were absolutely no names of my kin by blood, the first named being the ancestral or concerning one. It appeared as Thompson origin only at end of 18th Century by marriage of Sarah Shirley Mitchell to John Thompson in Wash. Co., Ky. My intimate work was to discover the right and distinct family from among conflicting evidence of present in enemy state of repetitions of same entire names found in original seats and those of later off or ^{from} ~~from~~ ^{from} copied deeds. I could and did distinguish and pronounce a lot of values, and open clues to be followed up.

Incidentally Lincoln, Banks, Sparrow lines associated with records of the above groups of ^{my} kin names and I picked out records and events, etc. of these historic families.

But my wholeness of aim and efforts

was simple and sure and unvarying, and I find it is so still. That purpose was not held because Mr. Barton and others were overturning historic pronouncements and accepted (by good students of Lincoln) of long-time legends as to Lincoln's maternal ancestry. No! my determination was deeper and more fundamentally related to the known verities in my own line of blood Run and of their ^{own} and ^{also} the migration into Wash. Co. By of ^{the} Lincolns, and verities of legend and of records in that country being needed to truly expose Lincoln's ancestral links, on father and mother sides -

I desired to discover trustworthy proof that would not only settle the question of the Shipley origin of Lincoln but even at same time restore the legendary values of that primitive and left out locality, Washington County and its two historic neighborhoods, Pleasant Grove and Beechland -

My aim and firm decision was two-sided, but clearly followed, viz., to seek for Shipley line above all, using Quaker and Civic records intently ^{but never} ^{exhaustively}, to uncover any marriage of Shipley woman especially where Abraham Lincoln Sr. and Robert Shipley's families ^{themselves} met and lived - very truly present together and associating in Augusta County and

4.
adjoining sections in that part of Va.,
and also in migrations ^{or wanderings} ~~therefrom~~
into and ~~thence~~ ^{across} to the 39° lat. boundary
and backward for the pioneering
migrations into Kentucky. Both
families were Luter + that Lincoln
Incestor as well as Shipley show
forth no civic evidence of any woman
as wife, only a date 1770 put when
Shipley's ^(and his wife's) ~~manifest~~ ^{very likely} were
associated in Augusta ^{and other} ~~regions~~ ^{Southward}

→ 2nd side of my aim: - Failing in
the discovery of any convincing
Shipley marriage ^{or other} document I have
always retained this purpose and
acted thereon: viz, to cut off my
records of merely family values
and to silence or check all pronoun-
ments or publicity from interview
etc. of my kin and to furnish no
statements or writings for publication. ^{I had actually} ~~of value.~~
When yourself brought about our
meetings in 1926 before my excursion -
my third in Va. - into central and
Western County Seats in Va., we
exchanged information and I stated
truly the above and sole purpose
that still guided me. Your work
and your successful book "Parentage
and Childhood of Lincoln" and your
collection of more great evidences
of your personal values then
and your placement now is even
outstandingly convincing. Mr. Warren

5

But notwithstanding the greatness
and the personal verification and
appreciation of my findings that
might come to honor myself were
I to place all in your archives
notwithstanding my own great desire
to accept your generous allowance
and to follow the suggestions and
kindly advice of Prof. Little Thompson,
LLD, my relative and friendly censor,
I am still controlled by my serious
and constant judgment that
the 2nd side of my exposed arm,
as demonstrated to you and perhaps
to others, is still in control as far
as I must ~~over~~ consider and order ~~away~~
~~to the~~ final disposal of my notes
and other matter belonging now
only ^{along} my ^{private} records.
What of excellent results I earlier
than Dr. Barton and others obtained
on Banks, Lincoln Sparrow larks
all of which truly belongs with
Lincolniana - mostly came to
instant exposure and publications
by Dr. Barton and others so my
former "discoveries" are of course
~~not~~ ^{not} ~~stated~~ thereby, are they not?

Shall I now deliver what is
mainly to be analyzed as my
own fairly findings? No I
am even more averse to that
kind of personal publicity now.

The placement in your museum
more likely than not would stamp
wrongfully myself as making a
claim of kinship to Lincoln,
and such a criticism might
tend to undo the greater values
your Lincolniana Museum
over and must stand for.

If by correspondence you ^{wish to} ~~can~~
secure personal information that
will help you to eliminate
or evaluate your materials, etc.
as well as to reach or eliminate
places of records, I'll gladly
state definitely what may
help ^(and I think I can give such help) your individual researches.
As, later I may learn enough as
to ~~of~~ your collections and their
inclusions, especially as to
that of Mrs. Hitchcock ~~and~~ ^{and} I
may be ready and willing, or
Prof. Thompson may, to
deliver the findings I
have along Lincoln, Hawks,
Sparrow names.

Now, very regretfully but sincerely
and openly I say: My records are
not really now properly qualified
for placement with Archives.



and other values distinctly
along Lincoln's history.

Your proposition to make
my findings as a permanent
collection in my own name
deeply honors my efforts to
help betray the real
Lincoln, and not here
an central dishonorings, say
I now.

I wish indeed I had been
receiving copies of "Lincoln Love"
of which I knew nothing. And
I have been wondering, and
keeping ^{my} watch therefor, what
you would publish out of
your researches and out of
Mrs. Kitchcock's Hanks
records. She has had
my appreciation sympathy
and perhaps my Hanks Records
will help hers later. They
would be simply a supporting
service, however, and not a collection.
I wish I could visit your place
and enjoy the exercises on Feb. 11th.
With deep sincerity and
friendliness and admiration
Kate Amelia Thompson

A.B.

I am sending this openly un-
closed for Ittith's own
Knowledge of what I write to you
He will mail in my envelope
very immediately. I hope it
reaches you ahead of Feb 10th
K. A. T.

Shupler family

February 19, 1931

Miss Kate Thompson
1040 South Coast Blvd.
La Jolla, California

My dear Miss Thompson:

I appreciated very much receiving your letter in which you clearly state your position with relation to the manuscripts you have been able to gather over a long period of years.

I happened that I had a paper before the Indiana Historical Society and met there for the first time Mr. Stith Thompson.

At that time I asked him as to where you were residing and if you contemplated making public any of these findings.

As our dedication approached it occurred to me that if you did not have other plans for your manuscripts it would at least pay you some tribute for the very valuable work you have done to recognize your efforts by naming a collection of manuscripts for you with the personal satisfaction that would come to you that your efforts for many years would be conserved in a great collection of Lincolniana.

After writing you we were very happy to learn that Mr. Hugh McCulloch, grandson of Lincoln's Secretary of the Treasury, had seen the wisdom of preserving his grandfather's documents by loaning them to this Foundation and thereby perpetuating not only his grandfather's name but conserving the valuable records which he had saved.

While I appreciate your attitude of mind and have no word of criticism to offer, yet I am hoping that some time you may feel that Mrs. Hitchcock's personal investigations, your own efforts, and my personal investigations in this field may be brought together under the same roof so that every effort might be made to solve the riddle of Lincoln's ancestry.

Miss Kate Thompson

February 19, 1931

- - Page Two - -

If at any time you feel that you would care to have us place your records in our archives, either as a loan or a permanent deposit, we should be very glad to have you take up the matter with us. It was not our purpose to take the initiative in this suggestion but it was mentioned, feeling that it might appeal to you.

The reason you have not been receiving Lincoln Lore, our weekly publication, is due to the fact that I could not seem to get a reply from the place I directed a letter to you in Indianapolis and therefore did not have a good address.

Under separate cover I am sending you a complete file of Lincoln Lore as far as we are able to furnish. I regret that a great many of the early issues are gone.

As soon as my very busy lecture season is over I shall be very glad to avail myself of the invitation to ask you some questions which may help me in solving some of the Virginia contacts of the families associated with the Lincolns.

On March 2 I read a paper before the Filson Club, Louisville, on Abraham Lincoln, the grandfather of President Lincoln. It would be of very great value to me if you could supply me or loan me such information as you may have about him, both in Virginia and Kentucky. Of course I have gathered a very great deal but undoubtedly you have come across some items which have escaped me.

If you feel free to forward me such information as you have so that it might reach me before the final draft of this paper, I think it would contribute very much to my efforts to give to the pioneer Abraham Lincoln the cultured and intelligent atmosphere which he deserves, and indirectly remove the Berry, Thompson, Mitchell, and the like families, into a much higher social scale than history has granted them.

Miss Kate Thompson

February 19, 1931

- - Page Three - -

I hope you will not feel that there is any selfish motive in any suggestions which I have made; my supreme desire is to see justice done to the family of Abraham Lincoln, and I really believe you are in a position to greatly assist in this matter.

I am sending this letter by air mail in order that you may have an opportunity to respond to this request in case it appeals to you, and if some items about the pioneer Lincoln are available they must be in my hands by the latter part of next week.

I was very much pleased to make the acquaintance of your nephew, Mr. Stith Thompson, and feel that he is a worthy representative of the family.

Your name is being placed on our mailing list for Lincoln Lore and you will receive it each week now as it goes forth.

Very sincerely yours,

LAW:VL

Director,
Lincoln Historical Research Foundation.

Via - Air Mail

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Stith Thompson collects folklore from all parts of the world.

Folklore Card-Indexer

By RENA NILES

**Every known motif in folk
tales has been classified
by a Kentuckian at I.U.,
master of 10 languages**

STITH THOMPSON—born in Springfield and an erstwhile friend of Elizabeth Madox Roberts—is Kentucky's chief contribution to scholarly folklore and to Indiana University, where he has been a professor in the English department these past 25 years.

The field of folklore is a broad field, and in it are many diverse crops. We have the straight hillbilly singers, who make themselves heard over the radio ad nauseam in the early morning hours; we have the night club artists like Burl Ives and Susan Reed; we have a few like Carl Sandburg and John Jacob Niles who are both researchers and performers; and then we have the pure scholars, like Stith Thompson, who will tell you that he has never collected folklore "in the field" (that is to say, from original sources) but has worked entirely in libraries, with printed texts.

The results of his labors fill a good-sized library shelf, and are highly prized by scholars the world over. His forthcoming volume, "The Folk Tale," will, he hopes, have a broader appeal—that is to say, it will doubtless be read by professors in the English and history departments, as well as by specialists in the library. Dr. Thompson does not hope to reach the man in street, for the man in the street seems rather remote to him. His important contribution has been the classification of motifs in folk tales the world over. In other words, he has analyzed the stuff of which folk tales are made, and classified each strand. Once, on a trip to Lund in Sweden, he was asked to explain his work

to a group of journalists. Though his knowledge of Swedish was adequate, the difficulties of the subject were great—in any language.

"You all know Linnaeus," he said to the Swedish journalists, "your great scientist who classified trees and plants. I am doing the same for folk tales."

The next day the headlines said: "Linnaeus of Folklore on his Way to Lund."

Stith Thompson's interest in folklore developed during his college years. As a child in Springfield, he heard no folk songs other than "Froggy Went A-Wooling"—though both his father and his uncle had fine voices and loved to sing Moody & Sankey hymns. When he was 12 the family moved to Indianapolis—largely because the Indianapolis schools were rated, at that time, as among the best in the country. It is indicative of the family's attitude toward education that this move was made almost entirely to benefit the children's schooling facilities. John Warden Thompson, Stith's father, one-time county judge and then in the cattle business, readjusted his business so that his children could go to better schools.

Stith Thompson took his first two years of college at Butler University. It was after this first half of his college career that he returned to Springfield, to teach in the high school under George Colvin, then principal and later State Superintendent of Public Instruction and president of the University of Louisville. Colvin had raised the standards of the Springfield High School to a point where it drew students from outside Kentucky, and to this day Stith Thompson looks back on his teaching experience under Colvin as invaluable to his development as a teacher.

Elizabeth Madox Roberts was also on the teaching staff. She had not published any of her books—indeed, no one suspected that she had any writing talent. As a teacher she was far from successful. Shy, aloof, with no talent for human contacts, she was unable to establish any kind of satisfactory relationship with her pupils. As a result, she lost her job in

Springfield and was forced to take less desirable posts at country schools.

Less desirable—on the surface of it. Actually, when she went to teach in the little school at Maude, she was taking her first step toward fame.

"I remember we all felt very sorry for poor Elizabeth," Stith Thompson recalls, "and personally, I never thought she would enter into the lives of the people at Maude—or anywhere else. But somehow she did. She must have—or she could never have written 'Time of Man' and her other books. Elizabeth Madox Roberts is the perfect example of the ugly duckling who becomes a swan—and I must admit, I never suspected the existence of the swan, in all the years I knew her."

At the University of Wisconsin, where he graduated in 1909, Stith Thompson got started in folklore. There he studied with Professor Arthur Beatty, who gave a course in English and Scottish ballads. At one time Thompson was given the task of collecting the narrative songs (ballads) of primitive people. He worked long and diligently—found none—and reported back to his professor empty-handed.

"Precisely," beamed Professor Beatty. "You found none because there are none. Narrative songs and ballads are a later development, and simply do not exist among primitive peoples."

But, in searching for the ballads which did not exist, Stith Thompson found the folk tales, which did. When he came to write his master's thesis at the University of California his thesis subject was "The Idea of the Soul in Teutonic Folklore," and his doctor's degree was obtained with a study of "European Tales Among North American Indians" (Harvard, 1914). At Harvard he was a pupil of the great George Lyman Kittredge.

THE publication of his doctor's thesis brought Stith Thompson a sudden spurt of fame in the halls of learning—and a paragraph in "Who's Who." It also left him with a great deal of unused material—for in finding the Indian folk tales which had European origins, he naturally came across many which did not. These later became the basis for his work titled "Tales of the North American Indians"—published much later, in 1929.

With his doctor's degree in his pocket Stith Thompson went to the University of Texas, thence to Colorado College, on to the University of Maine, and finally, in 1921, to Indiana University, where he has been ever since.

It would be too long a story to explain the development of Stith Thompson's "Motif Index of Folk Literature." Suffice it to say that this six-volume work, which was preceded by Thompson's translation from the German of Aarne's "Index of Folktales," is the final work in the field of the folk tale. In it every known motif is carefully indexed; as a reference work

it is on a par with the Oxford Greater or the Encyclopedia Britannica.

In the process of compiling this index and writing his other books, Stith Thompson found that a knowledge of foreign languages was necessary. In addition to the usual run of languages—French, German, Italian, Spanish—he proceeded to learn Romanian, Swedish, Danish, Norwegian and Russian. He is most casual about his knowledge of languages: "I had to have them in my work," he remarks dryly.

AT INDIANA UNIVERSITY Stith Thompson teaches a large freshman course in world literature, as well as a more advanced course called "World Classics." For these courses he has compiled a textbook, "Our Heritage of World Literature," which is widely used in college teaching throughout the country. Thompson has a very special kind of affection for this book: unlike the voluminous index, which is bought largely by archives and libraries, the "Heritage" goes into the hands of individual students.

"It brings me a nice little royalty check every year," Stith Thompson remarks.

Stith Thompson's one and only hobby is closely related to his work: he is, in his few leisure moments, something of a genealogist. His delving into ancestors has brought forth the fact that the original Stith Thompson came to Springfield, Ky., from Virginia in 1793 (the present Stith is a second cousin to Kentucky's poet, Cotton Noe). It has also brought forth an interesting tale concerning Stith Thompson's great-grandmother, Sarah Mitchell.

Sarah Mitchell, it seems, came to Kentucky in 1790. She was traveling with her mother and two brothers, when the group was overtaken by Indians. Sarah's mother was scalped and killed, her two brothers escaped over a creek by walking across a log, but Sarah, when she tried to follow them, got frightened, fell in the creek, and was captured by the Indians. For the next five years she lived with the Potawatomis, and was released when General Anthony Wayne made his treaty with the Indians. She somehow made her way to Springfield, to live with her mother's sister, Rachel Berry, in whose home her first cousin was also living—Nancy Hanks, who was later to become the mother of Abraham Lincoln.

Of such sturdy pioneer stock comes Stith Thompson. And though his learned pursuits may seem to be a far cry from his forebears' lives, to these pursuits he brings the same diligence and singleness of purpose which distinguished pioneer Americans. The resemblance, however, is not only spiritual. Stith Thompson—tall, gaunt, angular of face and form—looks not unlike his distant cousin, Abe Lincoln.

Finally, no story of Stith Thompson would be complete without mention of his Texas-born wife, two daughters, and his delightful home, meeting place for folklore lovers.



TWO folklore figures—Stith Thompson, left, and John Jacob Niles. They are looking at a dulcimer which Niles made himself to aid him in his singing of folk songs and ballads.

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April 17, 1950

Dr. Louis A. Warren, Editor
Lincoln Lore
The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company
Fort Wayne, Indiana

Dear Dr. Warren:

For sometime The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company has been sending me your weekly Bulletins. I find them most informative but the February 6, 1950, issue was of particular interest to me since several of my ancestors were named. Dr. Stith Thompson, Professor of English, Indiana University, was considerate enough to give my father a great deal of information about our "tie up" with Lincoln through the Shipleys.

In all probability you receive many requests for information even though you are not in "the business" of supplying genealogical information. I am only seeking suggestions as to where I might search for information about Sarah Shipley Mitchell and her parents, Robert and Naomi Shipley Mitchell. I know Sarah Shipley Mitchell married John Thompson, since they are my paternal grandfather's grandparents and their graves are in the Pleasant Grove Cemetery, Washington County, Kentucky.

Dr. Stith Thompson revealed that Rachel, Ann, Lucy and Naomi were Robert Shipley's daughters. He also informed us that Adam Shipley, born 1682 in Ann Arundel County, ~~Ind.~~ ^{MD.} is the father of Robert Shipley, born 1713, in same county, but who later moved to Bedford County, Virginia (1747) and still later to Mechlingberry County Virginia (1771). I assume this latter location is the Roanoke River Country mentioned in the second paragraph of your February 6, Bulletin.

Please accept my thanks for any information and advice you are able to send. A stamped self-addressed envelope is enclosed.

Sincerely yours,

L. Mitchell Thompson
L. Mitchell Thompson
1223 Wateree Street
Kingsport, Tennessee

Shipley - Mitchell

April 20, 1950

Mr. L. M. Thompson
1223 Wateree Street
Kingsport, Tennessee

My dear Mr. Thompson:

For many years I have been doing research work on the Shipley family and even this past summer continued my efforts in Maryland to gather if possible positive proof with respect to the paternal ancestry of Abraham Lincoln.

I am gathering up such information as may be available here that can be forwarded which may give you a picture of the genealogy of the family as far as we have been able to go.

It is rather a strange coincidence that your letter reached me just at the same time a letter arrived from Stith Thompson who is to be here Monday for an address.

We trust that we may be able to supply some information that will be of interest to you.

Very truly yours,

LAW:JM
L.A. Warren

Director

Shipley, Mitchell, and Thompson Families

Notes based in part on researches of

Kate A. Thompson

Compiled by

Stith Thompson

Indiana University

Bloomington, 1964

Extra copies available from
Stith Thompson, Indiana University
Bloomington, Indiana at cost (\$3)

Item available in the Lincoln Financial Foundation Collection at the
Allen County Public Library, Fort Wayne, Indiana

For contact information, go to www.LincolnCollection.org.



MOST INTELLECTUAL — Miss Lucy Thompson of Emporia, Va., is pride of Virginia State Teachers' college at Farmville. She was selected as most intellectual student in annual contest.

